Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I presume so.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know the approximate number of houses which were recently burnt?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—About 30 thatched houses were burnt. But I speak subject to correction.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will you just look into the matter?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I will.

Construction of bridge at Vettikadavu—action on petition for.

92. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received a petition dated 14th Chingam 1109 from Mr. Paramel Ipe Chummar and others in Kunnamkulam, Pazhanji, Pengamuk, Mangad and other villages addressed to the Diwan through the Chief Engineer praying to construct a bridge at Vettikadavu; and if so,

(b) whether the petition will be printed and placed on the table, and state

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the petition is placed on the table. (*Appendix I.*)

(c) The relative importance of this route as compared with other projected routes between Kunnamkulam and Palanji is being considered.

Economic depression—fall in prices of agricultural products—revenue sales.

93. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Agriculturists in Cochin are very much affected by the fall in price of the agricultural products; if so, what relief measures were undertaken by Government in order to protect them from their present pitiable condition;

(b) the number of proceedings taken by the Revenue Department against immovable and movable properties in each taluk during the year 1108 to realise land revenue.

(c) how many of them were withdrawn and in how many cases sales were conducted;

(d) how many were confirmed;

(e) how much land were sold and the amounts for which they were sold and the amounts actually realised by each sale?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—(a) The attention of the member is invited to the Diwan's Proceedings dated 28/11/1933, R4—470/09, Revenue Department, published at pages 157 and

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158 of Part I of the Cochin Government Gazette, dated 17th Vrischigam 1109.

(b), (c), (d) and (e). Statements giving the particulars wanted are appended. (*Appendix* II (*a*) *and* (*b*).)

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government admit that the agriculturists are very much affected by the fall in prices of the agricultural products?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—They are affected.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The first item in Appendix II (a) is this: 62 cents of land were sold for Rs. 175. The amount to be realised is only Rs. 10—1—3. May I know why so much property was sold in order to recover such a small amount?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—There are two requirements which we have to consider in the matter of sales. One is that property cannot be divided into tiny sub-divisions. The other is there may be prior encumbrances upon these properties.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Are you sure?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I will find it out and give the information.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—What is the difficulty in sub-dividing the property?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—We have to consider certain principles. If we are going to sub-divide properties for the purpose of sales there will be 150 sub-divisions or more in each survey number. A man holding 1/16th of a cent will have to be granted a patta. Another holding 2/16th of a cent will have to be granted another patta.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—How did the Government manage to sell a property measuring 26 cents to recover Rs. 1—9—6?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Perhaps it may be the smallest plot.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Suppose a man assigns one cent of land. Will you give him a patta?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—We will give him if it is possible.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Are there instances in which pattas have been refused?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Is it a practice of the Government to give notice to the mortgagee in case an auction is conducted?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Apart from the publication in the Gazette we are not now in the habit of giving notice. But I am contemplating to have their names registered on payment of one rupee, as they do in Madras.

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Mr. Joseph Pettah.—The Hon'ble Member in answer to a previous supplementary question has stated that the low price of Rs. 175 my be due to the fact that the property has an encumbrance on it. How does it affect the Government? In the case of revenue recovery the Government will have priority.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon —The Government cannot split the property. Suppose a property is mortgaged for Rs. 100. If that property is sub-divided and a little plot is sold for revenue recovery, the mortgagee can sell that plot for Rs. 100.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—When a sale is conducted by a revenue authority, the purchaser gets the property free of all such encumbrances. Is it not?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—In selling that plot it must be sold subject to theencumbrance.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Is it not better to split the property and sell it than selling it as a whole?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Where fragmentation is possible it is done.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Are not the people put to great hardship by selling the property as a whole?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I should think that the hardship is more imaginary than real.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—For realising Rs. 100 there is a sale for Rs. 165, for realising Rs. 62 there is a sale for Rs. 115, for Rs. 20 there is a sale for Rs. 150 and for Rs. 49 there is a sale for Rs. 151. I should submit that these are big differences.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—On a point of order, Sir. I pray for a ruling on a question that I raised on a former occasion. In the absence of the member who has put a question it has been ruled that supplementary questions should not be put and therefore I pray for a ruling on another point, that such questions should not be printed in the proceedings.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—If a question is asked and an answer is given which is completely a misrepresentation of facts and if the Hon'ble Member who put the question is absent, what is the method for the House to correct the statement?

President.—The member who puts the question is expected to be present when it comes up before the House.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—It will form part of the proceedings.

Arrest of volunteers of the Cochin Famine Relief Association.

94. **Mr. K. G. Nayar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state—

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